

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method executed by a processor for analyzing contracts,  
2 comprising:  
3 receiving, by the processor, a definition of plural structural components within a contract  
4 being analyzed;  
5 determining, by the processor, at least one language pattern indicative of a contract  
6 attribute from text of a plurality of sample contracts, wherein the at least one language pattern  
7 corresponds to a particular one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;  
8 determining, by the processor, whether the language pattern is present in the particular  
9 structural component of the contract being analyzed; and  
10 in response to the presence of the language pattern in the particular structural component  
11 of the contract being analyzed, assigning, by the processor, text associated with the language  
12 pattern to the contract attribute.
- 1 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining at least one  
2 language pattern indicative of the contract attribute comprises identifying, from the plurality of  
3 sample contracts, annotations that describe a structural context associated with the language  
4 pattern, wherein the structural context corresponds to the particular structural component.
- 1 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising manually adding the  
2 annotations to the plurality of sample contracts based on the plural structural components  
3 specified by the definition.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the annotations comprise extensible markup  
2 language tags.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contract attribute is specified in a  
2 component object model associated with the contract.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the at least one  
2 language pattern indicative of the contract attribute comprises generating a rule having an  
3 identifier of the particular structural component and a regular expression associated with the  
4 language pattern.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the regular expression is formed using a top-  
2 down induction method.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the definition  
2 comprises receiving a document object model.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein determining whether the  
2 language pattern is present in the contract being analyzed further comprises classifying a portion  
3 of the contract being analyzed containing the language pattern into a subject category associated  
4 with the particular structural component of the rule.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein classifying the portion of the  
2 contract being analyzed comprises classifying into the subject category based on at least one  
3 language pattern in the portion indicative of the subject category.

1 11. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 a storage arrangement including a plurality of sample contracts and a definition stored in  
4 machine-readable form, wherein the definition specifies plural structural components of a  
5 contract being analyzed;  
6 a learning module executable on the processor to determine at least one language pattern  
7 indicative of a contract attribute from text of the plurality of sample contracts, wherein the at  
8 least one language pattern corresponds to a particular one of the plural structural components  
9 specified by the definition;  
10 an extractor executable on the processor to determine whether the language pattern is  
11 present in the particular structural component of the contract being analyzed, the extractor further  
12 executable to, in response to the presence of the language pattern in the particular structural  
13 component of the contract being analyzed, assign a contract attribute to a portion of the text of  
14 the contract being analyzed associated with the language pattern; and  
15 a contracts facts database configured to store a data value conforming to the portion of  
16 the text assigned to the contract attribute.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the learning module is  
2 executable to determine the at least one language pattern indicative of the contract attribute by  
3 identifying, from the plurality of sample contracts, annotations that describe a structural context  
4 associated with the language pattern and corresponding to the particular structural component in  
5 each of the sample contracts.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the learning module is  
2 executable to accept a user input for manually adding annotations, according to the plural  
3 structural components specified by the definition, to the plurality of sample contracts.

1 14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the learning module is  
2 executable to determine the at least one language pattern indicative of the contract attribute by  
3 generating a rule having an identifier of the particular structural component and a regular  
4 expression associated with the language pattern.

1 16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the rule is generated using a top-down  
2 induction method to form the regular expression.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the contracts facts database  
2 comprises one of a relational database and an extensible markup language database.

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for  
2 causing a processor of a data processing system to perform steps comprising:  
3 receiving a definition of plural structural components within a contract being analyzed;  
4 determining at least one language pattern indicative of a contract attribute from text from  
5 a plurality of sample contracts, wherein the at least one language pattern corresponds to a  
6 particular one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;  
7 determining whether the language pattern is present in the particular structural  
8 component of the contract being analyzed; and  
9 in response to the presence of the language pattern in the particular structural component  
10 of the contract being analyzed, assigning a portion of text associated with the language pattern to  
11 the contract attribute.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein determining at least one language pattern indicative of the contract attribute comprises identifying, from the plurality of sample contracts, annotations that describe a structural context associated with the language pattern, wherein the structural context corresponds to the particular structural component.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the steps further comprise manually adding the annotations to the plurality of sample contracts, based on the plural structural components specified by the definition.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein determining the at least one language pattern indicative of the contract attribute comprises generating a rule having an identifier of the particular structural component and a regular expression associated with the language pattern.

24. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular structural component is present in at least some of the sample contracts.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the definition of the plural structural components comprises receiving a model of the plural structural components.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the definition of the plural structural components comprises receiving the definition of plural sections or clauses within the contract being analyzed.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a second language pattern indicative of a second contract attribute from text of the plurality of sample contracts, wherein the second language pattern corresponds to a second one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;

determining whether the second language pattern is present in the second structural component of the contract being analyzed; and

extracting text to assign to the second contract attribute from the second structural component of the contract being analyzed in response to determining the second language pattern is present.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the particular structural component is present in at least some of the sample contracts.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the plural structural components specified by the definition comprise sections or clauses of the contract being analyzed.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the learning module is executable to determine a second language pattern indicative of a second contract attribute from text of the plurality of sample contracts, wherein the second language pattern corresponds to a second one of the plural structural components specified by the definition, and

wherein the extractor is executable to:

determine whether the second language pattern is present in the second structural component of the contract being analyzed; and

extract text to assign to the second contract attribute from the second structural component of the contract being analyzed in response to determining the second language pattern is present.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the particular structural component is present in at least some of the sample contracts.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the plural structural components specified by the definition comprise sections or clauses of the contract being analyzed.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions are for causing the process to further perform the steps of:

- determining a second language pattern indicative of a second contract attribute from text of the plurality of sample contracts, wherein the second language pattern corresponds to a second one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;
- determining whether the second language pattern is present in the second structural component of the contract being analyzed; and
- extracting text to assign to the second contract attribute from the second structural component of the contract being analyzed in response to determining the second language pattern is present.